

How To Survive The Bitter Waters of Marah (Exodus 15:22-27)

Proposition: There can be found six instructions in this text that, if followed, can afford a 100% survival rate for every child of God when they encounter the bitter waters of life.

- I. **Realize A Diminished Resource** (Vs. 22-24)
 - A. Fleeting Resources (Vs. 22)
 - B. False Resources (Vs. 23-24)
- II. **Release A Desperate Request** (Vs. 25a)
 - A. A Sincere Request (Vs. 25a)
 - B. A Simple Request (Vs. 25a)
- III. **Regard A Divine Revealing** (Vs. 25b)
 - A. An Astonishing Reveal (Vs. 25b)
 - B. An Absurd Reveal (Vs. 25b)
- IV. **Respond in A Deliberate Reliance** (Vs. 25c)
 - A. An Appropriating Reliance (Vs. 25c)
 - B. An Abandoned Reliance (Vs. 25c)
- V. **Reckon A Dramatic Response** (Vs. 25d-26)
 - A. A Supplying Response (Vs. 25d)
 - B. A Sweet response (Vs. 25d)
 - C. A Sustaining response (Vs. 25e-26)
- VI. **Retain a Durable Resort** (Vs. 27)
 - A. A Resort of Supply (Vs. 27a-b)
 - B. A Resort of Shade (Vs. 27c)

What you must remember is that God led them there Ex 13:21-22. God didn't send them there. He led them there. No matter how bitter or confusing, ^{leading} God is

II. Release A Desperate Request - The people complain to Moses. Moses went to God.

A. Sincere Request - These were an accusing people that came to Moses. If Moses would have been like us, we would have responded in anger and told that ungrateful bunch a thing or two. But he does the only thing a faithful child of God can do in desperate prayer. He cried sincerely to God. ⁽³⁾ ~~Then~~ Paul said

B. Simple Request - Although we do not have the words of his prayer, the phrase infers that he simply took his needs to the Lord. So often we neglect to recount to God in prayer the problems that so deeply perplex ⁽⁴⁾ us. Ps 103:13; Ps 102:17 When you are faced w/ bitter waters of disappointment what can

III. Regard A Divine Revealing - What was God's response. Rain, water, all good. No. 9 Tree.

A. Astonishing Reveal - The Lord showed him a tree. A tree that was already in their midst. A tree that was accessible. So it is with all of life's problems and testings. Trials and difficulties it is the cross of Christ, The death of Christ that proves to be our remedy. The answer is close at hand.

B. Absurd Reveal - I have the Netflix radio spots. It sounds like a game show w/ really

- 1)waters of Marah. What looked sweet to begin with at the beginning, quickly turned bitter and unsatisfying. Doesn't that sound like life. How that life can turn on a dime and that which looked like a God sent was quickly realized to be the proving ground of bitter waters. How to we survive this proving? There can be found six instructions in this text that, if followed, can afford a 100% survival rate for every child of God when they encounter the bitter waters of life.
- 2) Exodus 13:21-22 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.
- 3) Ivor Powell said: Blessed is the man that prefers praying to pouting!
- 4) Psalms 103:13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. Psalms 102:17 He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer.
- 5) ...what can you do? John Buyan said: You can do more after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.

1) For example: Plastic is to megawatt as unicorn is to...Goulash!

These items are completely unrelated.

2) ...at the cross. There is healing at the cross. There is understanding at the cross. There is strength at the cross. There is security at the cross.

3) ...unchanged. But when the repentant heart takes and appropriates that cross for their own what ever bitter experience encountered becomes sweet in comparison.

difficult questions that have arisen around it. EX
That seems to be what's going on in our text. We
need water! Here's a tree. I have a problem! Here's
the cross! No not the wood or the structure of a
cross, But the truth that God miraculously placed
our curse on His Son. There is salvation at the cross. There is

IV. Respond in Diligent Reliance - Once
revealed it is our job to rely. To trust and lay hold

A. An Appropriating Reliance - w/o
out the faith to lay hold of that revealed
tree, Moses and the people would have sat
there & died. It's not enough to see the cross
to play its scene in the mind but to lay hold
of it as our own. The unrepentant thief saw every
brutal moment of Christ's death and remained unchanged ⁽³⁾

B. An Abandoned Reliance - Moses
took that tree and cast it into the
waters. There is something very final about
that phrase. His reliance was a complete
reliance. He had abandoned any other option
for help. He didn't have a back up plan. He
didn't break up the tree by trying to see what would

V. Reckon A Dramatic Response -

A. Supplying Response - To quench the
mighty thirst of upwards of 3 million
people along with their animals took some large
body of water. One seemingly insignificant tree, releas
ed a supply to quench the thirst of all. What is your thirst

B. Sweet Response - He took the lemons of
thorns. Juice and mixed it into lemonade.

at the wedding of Cana, he took the need and turned it into the best. He took the sorrow of Lazarus tomb and turned it into the glory of His mighty power. He took sinners judgment at the cross and turned

C. Sustaining Response - Vs 26 As they are drinking of His abundant supply, He tells them basically Just follow me, just trust me just believe me. God promises us no less. Yes we will encounter disappointment and trial

VI. Retain A Durable Resort - God not only led them to Marah but also Elin

A. A Resort of Supply - Elin means "a place of refreshment". It was a place of 12 separate wells. A place of supply. God not only leads us to better waters of testing, but he knows how to lead us to hydrating wells of refreshment. I am reminded of the Psalms 103: 14. Remember God knew about Elin when ^{He knew at Marah} ^{He knew at Elin}

B. A Resort of Shade - There were also 70 palm trees. A place for the people to rest beneath its shade. A resource of coconuts. This provided for them a rest a respite from their travels. The temptation is to just give some deep slakes and just stay. But there is a promised land of far superior

VII. Chase - The poet wrote! I tried the broken cisterns, Lord, But ah the waters failed, E'en as I stopped to drink they fled And mocked me as I failed. Now none but Christ can satisfy. ⁽⁵⁾ None other Name for me

- 1) ...and turned it into our salvation. And on resurrection morning he took the sorrow of death and turned it into the sweetness of an everlasting hope!!!
- 2) heartache and need. But if we will obey Him and follow Him, he will turn our bitter waters sweet. There were a lot of difficulties and trials that lay ahead. In these first infant steps of following God, He is growing and strengthening their faith.
- 3) Psalms 103:14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.
- 4) ...far superior blessings than Eliam as well as greater challenges than Marah that lay ahead. They will meet those the way they met these, in trusting a heavenly Father.
- 5) ...There's love and life and lasting joy, Lord Jesus found in Thee!!! What are you thirsting for? Have the bitter waters of life caused you to murmur against God! Come to the tree. Abandon yourself to the cross of Christ where the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.